



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Hilda Marella Delgado
(562) 927-1200
(213) 700-3142 cell

**ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE WORKS TO IMPROVE TRANSPARENCY
OF FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDS**

Hearing highlighted importance of reporting results

SACRAMENTO, CA – The Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review Committee hearing focused on the importance of reporting accurate and meaningful information to the public for all federal stimulus funds administered by the State.

"The committee is going to solicit requests from members of the Assembly regarding the types of information they need in order to answer their constituents' most pressing questions about the federal stimulus funding," said Committee Chairman Hector De La Torre. "We will then work with the California Recovery Task Force to ensure that Californians have access to information about the administration and results of the stimulus funds."

The Accountability Committee convened representatives of the state agencies that are expected to monitor and track the federal stimulus funds. Cynthia Bryant and Fred Klass, Director and Deputy for Accountability, respectively, of the California Recovery Task Force, provided information on what funds California has received to date.

The Accountability Committee heard from Inspector General Laura Chick and State Auditor Elaine Howle on the importance of auditing these expenditures. Each cited various examples of funds used inappropriately. Most importantly, they offered solutions to prevent further misspending of federal dollars.

"Taxpayers have given our federal and state governments an incredible opportunity. With this new infusion of federal dollars, we have a renewed responsibility to provide Californians with easily available and straightforward information," stated Chairman De La Torre.

At an earlier hearing in March, the Accountability Committee voted unanimously to request that all state agencies provide information on their American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) expenditures in a uniform format, report on the new jobs created with federal stimulus dollars, and that state agencies make this information available on their websites.

(more)

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De La Torre added, “We need to have the proper transparency to ensure that we maintain our commitment to facilitate job creation.”

Background

California is expected to receive approximately \$32 billion in federal aid under the ARRA, including major investments in health, education, transportation, labor, workforce development, and criminal justice programs. The federal stimulus package includes unprecedented accountability and transparency requirements, which could trigger penalties if they are not fulfilled.

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